

FIVE YEAR TASK TO FIT NAVY FOR REAL WARFARE

Admiral Fiske Says We Have
No Plans, System or
Cooperation.

GERMAN EFFICIENCY WORTH WHILE COPYING

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Rear Admiral Bradley A. Fiske told the House Committee on Naval Affairs today that it would take from three to five years to win the American navy into shape "to make effective warfare against a certain first class power." Many of those present thought that Germany is the "first class power" Admiral Fiske had in mind. The witness told a story of unpreparedness on the part of the American navy that made a strong impression on his hearers. It was doubly impressive in view of the fact that it came from the lips of the naval officer occupying what is regarded as the most important post in the naval service.

Admiral Fiske's testimony was the hardest blow the opponents of an inquiry into national defenses have received, and it alone will give a big impetus to the movement for a thorough investigation.

As the naval aid for operations it is the duty of Admiral Fiske to keep the battleship fleet in a state of preparedness for any emergency. He gave it as his opinion that, taking the navy as a whole, it is not prepared for war, that the organization of the service is defective fundamentally and that in order to get the results that have been attained in other navies radical reforms were imperative.

Cautious in Testimony.

Admiral Fiske was exceedingly cautious in giving his testimony. Frequently he paused for a minute or two before he replied to questions, and those who followed him were impressed with the desire to tell the whole truth without reserve and a feeling that he should restrain himself out of regard for the wishes of those "higher up." The testimony of Admiral Fiske may be summarized as follows:

First, there is an utter lack of cooperation between the strategists of the naval war college and the battleship fleet.

Second, there is no agency in the American navy comparable to the German staff or the British Admiralty charged with the duty of effecting such cooperation.

Third, the American navy is deficient in gunnery.

Fourth, that no definite plan of campaign for a warfare against any power has been evolved in the navy.

Fifth, that with the implements now in hand it would take from three to five years to unify them and put the personnel in trim to wage efficient warfare.

Admiral in Earnest.

Admiral Fiske then made a general statement as to the condition of the navy.

The witness spoke very earnestly and the committee gave him close attention.

"What I am thinking about is, how we are prepared for any war we may have in the future," said he.

"When I think of the number of things to be done to get the navy into effective shape I have a feeling of concern. We must think of the auxiliaries, vessels to sweep for mines and aeroplanes, and also the commissioned personnel and the enlisted men and proper training for them."

"I doubt if in five years we could get the navy up to the state of efficiency enjoyed by one of the navies of Europe. There are people in a military state of mind. There is no cooperation. We must think of the auxiliaries, vessels to sweep for mines and aeroplanes, and also the commissioned personnel and the enlisted men and proper training for them."

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Six Lions Break Loose in Packed Theatre, Causing Panic; Policeman Shot in Fighting Beast That Fled in Street

Terror and Fusillade of Bullets Follow Animal in Third Ave. Building.

MANY WOMEN IN MAD SCRAMBLE FOR EXITS

The curtain had just fallen on a troupe of six performing lions in the Eighty-sixth Street Theatre, just west of Third avenue, yesterday afternoon. The house was in darkness save for the spotlight that played on a male quartet when from behind the curtain came a woman's shrill scream and then the low snarl of a lion.

Instantly the lights flashed on and as the audience half rose with a gasp a shaggy head appeared above a box rail on the left side of the stage and a lion bounded over. With cries of fear those in the audience turned and fled through exits. Beast after beast bounded into the throng until all six were running in fright up and down the aisles and into the balconies.

All but one of the lions kept to the inside of the theatre and were rounded up in the lobby. Alice, the one that reached the street, sought safety in the hallway of 1332 Third avenue, leading to a photographer's studio. She was caught between the fire of two squads of policemen and riddled with bullets.

Policeman Wounded.

In the fusillade of lead that scarred and chipped the stairs and hallway, Sergt. Daniel Glenn was shot in the back. He was taken to Flower Hospital, where it was said his condition is critical.

Every seat in the theatre, which holds about 900, was filled, and in the rear of the orchestra at least 100 more persons were standing. The lions were the main attraction on the programme. Pictures of them were on pedestals in the lobby, where they were billed as "Six Men Eating Lions Under Woman's Hypnotic Control." But the control of Mme. Marie Andre failed apparently at the critical moment.

She had put her charges through their performance without a hitch and the curtain went down with each lion sitting calmly on a stand in the iron exhibition cage. The whip snapping, Mme. Andre took her curtain calls with a smile and then the audience, relieved from the expectation of seeing something happen to her, settled back to enjoy the less nerve racking performance of the Four Harts, who made harmony out of a song called "Follow the Crowd."

Back of the curtain something happened that grated on the sensitive nerves of the juried hosts. They started into a corner of their cage, switching their tails nervously as the shifting box in which they were removed from the exhibition cage so moved and left between the two boxes, each supposed to hold three lions.

Carl Turquist, the keeper, climbed to the top of the cage to find open the sliding door, when to his amazement all six animals rushed forward in a compact mass, jammed against the narrow door of the shifting box and shoved it back so space was left between the box and the cage, through which they leaped.

As the animals rushed forward, the lion, Carl Turquist, the keeper, climbed to the top of the cage to find open the sliding door, when to his amazement all six animals rushed forward in a compact mass, jammed against the narrow door of the shifting box and shoved it back so space was left between the box and the cage, through which they leaped.

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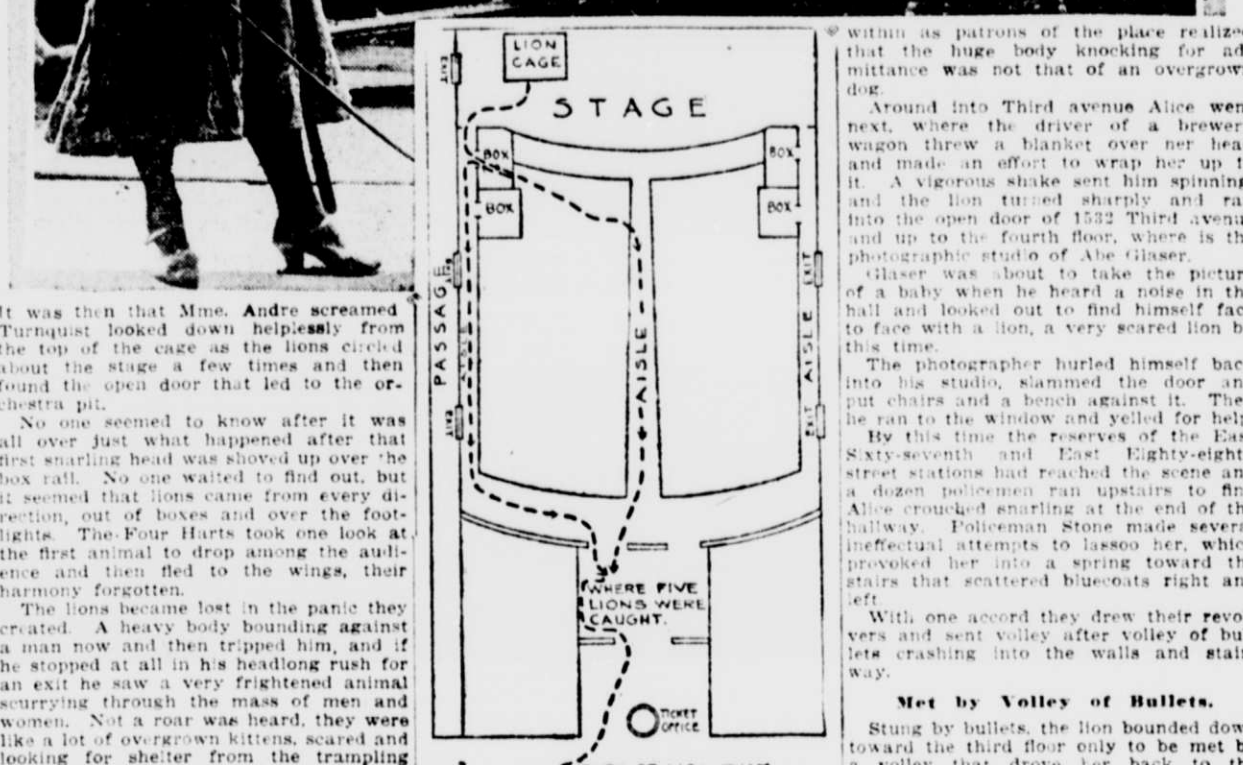
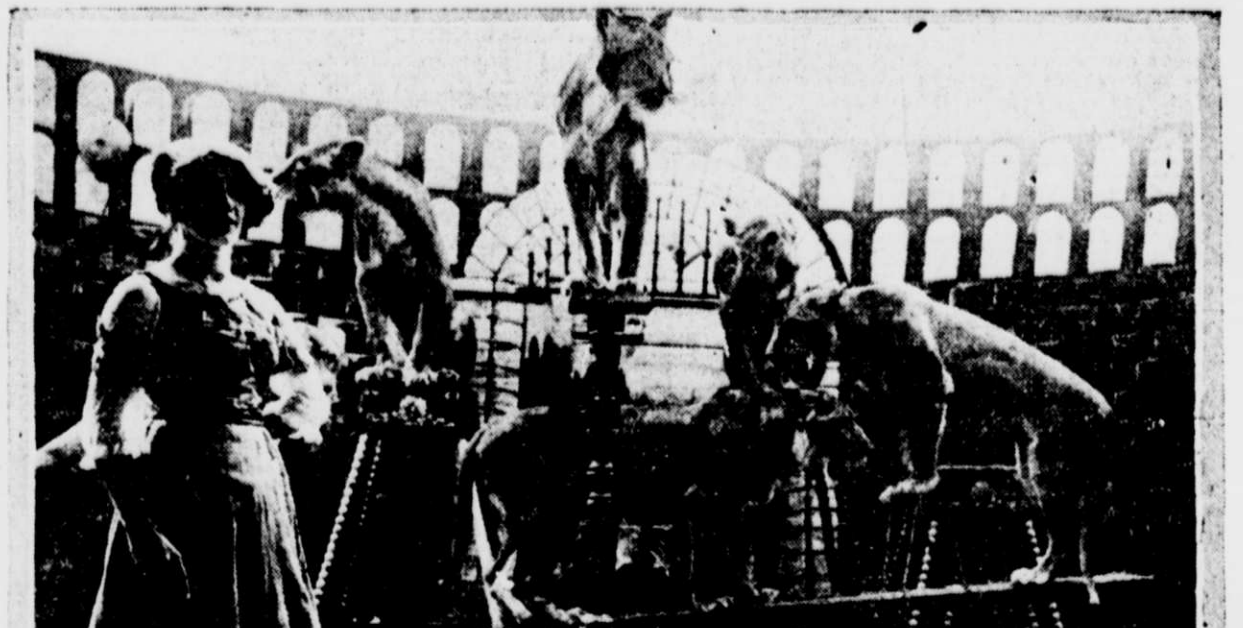
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Mme. Andre and her six lions, which escaped from their cage in the Eighty-sixth Street Theatre. Below is a diagram showing how the lions got into the auditorium, the lobby in which five of them were captured and the path taken by the sixth, which was killed in the fourth floor hallway of 1332 Third avenue, just outside of a photographer's studio.



It was then that Mme. Andre screamed. Turquist looked down helplessly from the top of the cage as the lions crowded about the stage a few times and then found the open door that led to the orchestra pit.

No one seemed to know after it was all over just what happened after that first snarling head was shoved up over the box rail. No one wanted to find out, but it seemed that lions came from every direction, out of boxes and over the footlights. The Four Harts took one look at the first animal to drop among the audience and then fled to the wings, their harmony forgotten.

The lions became lost in the panic they created. A heavy body bounding across the stage and then tripping him, and if he stopped at all in his headlong rush for an exit he saw a very frightened animal scurrying through the mass of men and women. Not a roar was heard, they were like a lot of overgrown kittens, scared and looking for shelter from the trampling crowd.

By some fortunate chance there were a number of women and policemen in the theatre when the panic began. Sergt. Thomas Tracy, his round face glistening with excitement, jumped up on the stage and tried to subdue the frightened crowd.

He picked women from the floor and steered them toward exits, with which the house was so well provided that every one but the police and the lions was out in a few minutes.

With them had gone Alice. She had made a beeline down an aisle to the lobby and beat the crowd to the street by Eighty-sixth street, a wide and busy thoroughfare, dazed her for a moment, and she loped slowly across to President's saloon on the corner of Third avenue and sat down on the sidewalk to think over the situation.

It was at that moment that a person who seemed to have been mobbing something that warmed his heart toward stray animals, stopped beside Alice and patted her on the head.

"Nice doggie," he said. "Cool, ain't it?"

Alice looked at him in an injured way, got up and ambled over to the saloon door, where she raised herself in her hind legs and pawed at the door a moment.

Sounds of smashing glass came from the thoroughfare, dazed her for a moment, and she loped slowly across to President's saloon on the corner of Third avenue and sat down on the sidewalk to think over the situation.

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BRITISH SHIPS DAMAGED BY RAIDING FLEET

5 Killed, 12 Hurt, on Cruiser and Destroyer and Pursuing Flotilla.

DROP MINES, SINKING 3 MERCHANT VESSELS

110 Killed, 405 Seriously Wounded in Bombardment of English Towns.

RUSH TO VOLUNTEER FOLLOWS THE ATTACK

Viscount Bryce Heads Inquiry Board Named by British Cabinet.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun. BERLIN, via Amsterdam, Dec. 17.—An unofficial statement says the German raiding cruisers sank two British destroyers and that others were badly damaged.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun. LONDON, Dec. 17.—A short, fierce battle was fought in the fog off the Yorkshire coast yesterday morning between a mosquito fleet of British destroyers and the quite fleet of British destroyers, which was accompanied by a small cruiser or two, and the powerful squadron of the German high sea fleet which was fleeing to safety after badly damaging the cities of Hartlepool, Scarborough and Whitby.

Racing to the coast in response to the fervent wireless appeals that were flung out from the bombarded cities to every British warship and depot, the destroyers encountered the German battle cruisers before their nearness was realized. In the mist that veiled the sea the Tyne flotilla fairly blundered into the Germans and their best to delay the flight until the British battle cruisers and dreadnoughts could come up. They were not successful and they suffered heavy punishment from the heavy long range guns of the German cruisers, but they made a plucky fight.

The Admiralty has issued a list of four men killed on the cruiser Patrol and one killed and eleven wounded on the destroyer Doon off Hartlepool yesterday.

Seven wounded men have been landed at South Shields from one of the destroyers of the Tyne flotilla—a lieutenant and six sailors, and accommodations have been prepared at Cromarty for fifty wounded. The extent of the British casualties in a fight wherein they were hopelessly outclassed is not yet known, and is only hinted at in the news from South Shields and Cromarty. In these towns it is said that the Tyne flotilla was attacked by three German cruisers and four destroyers and that the lieutenant and sailors landed at South Shields, others were wounded, but less seriously.

It is ascertained that the British destroyers made such fast time in approaching the Yorkshire coast after the wireless had given the alarm of the bombardment of the three cities that they found themselves in the path of the German fleet. It is conjectured that the engagement began about 11 A. M. and that it lasted only a few minutes. At South Shields it was learned from the wounded lieutenant that the German fleet consisted of three battle cruisers, one of which was the Von der Tann, a ship of 19,400 tons and carries eight 11 inch guns in turrets. Her speed is twenty-seven knots. Her armor is 23,000 tons and mounts ten 11 inch guns. She can make twenty-eight knots an hour. The Seydlitz is of 25,000 tons, carries ten 11 inch guns and is believed to be good for twenty-nine knots.

That some of Germany's finest ships were sent out in the bold adventure is proved by the German official announcement, which states that "part of the German high sea fleet made the attack on the English east coast," and the rapidity of their movements and the ease with which they escaped indicate that the fast steaming battle cruisers were used. It is of course quite probable that two or three dreadnoughts of like speed kept pace with the battle cruisers.

The news from South Shields is the first indication that the Germans had torpedoed British destroyers with their big ships. There has been a report that German submarines were seen off the coast at the time of the attack.

A trader, which arrived at Hartlepool at daybreak, reports that she saw the German ships at midday on Tuesday just off the Dogger Bank.

May Foretell Future Attempts. The distressing fact that has never been lost sight of for a moment here is that England's battle fleet was not so disposed as to prevent the raid or destroy the raiders. Instead of being bottled up at Kiel, the Germans were obviously free to emerge at will chosen time and place to strike a blow as England had not felt since William of Normandy. John Paul Jones's raid and landing parties, and the extremely temporary sojourn of French raiders a few years later, in 1759, were plucky attempts compared to the savage and sanguinary attack made by the Germans yesterday morning. Although

Continued on Fourth Page.

BIG ADVANCES MADE BY ALLIES ON WEST FLANK

Line Is Now East of Arras and Progress Around Ypres Reported.

PUSH FORWARD IN REGION OF PERONNE

Germans Are Forced to Give Way North and East of Albert.

GENERAL OFFENSIVE MAY BE IN FULL SWING

Kaiser's Forces Driven at Bayonet Point From Many Trenches.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun. PARIS, Dec. 17.—Attacking from their base at Arras today, the Allies forced back the Germans three kilometers (nearly two miles) and gained a foothold at St. Laurent-Blangy, northeast of Arras. Taken in connection with important advances made to the south of Arras, between Bapaume and Albert and between Albert and Peronne, and with the steady forward movement in Flanders today and yesterday, it is evident that the Allied offensive is showing increased power and is steadily if slowly pushing back the long German west flank that reaches from Neuport to the region of Soissons.

The official announcements show that the offensive, which is now general and covers the entire field of operations from the Belgian coast to the Alsatian plain, is producing not merely a series of widely separated and unconnected successes but is hammering back both the east and west wings of the German army.

The movement northeast from Arras, commented on by to-night's official report, seems peculiarly significant, in that the Germans had concentrated very heavily in this region and were preparing to attempt there what they had failed to do at Ypres—break the allied lines. Instead, the Allies, for the first time in many weeks, drove home an attack that gained much ground and put a heavy strain on the German line. The advance may be the preliminary stroke of a determined attempt to cut the German line of communications and breaking through Valenciennes into Belgium.

Advance at Three Points. Further to the south advances hardly less significant were reported by the Government. Northeast of Albert, the spearhead of the German line, the region between Bapaume and the Aisne, the Allies made progress at Ouliers-la-Bosselle, while southeast of Albert they moved forward at Mametz and Maricourt. The movement toward French frontier is on the Albert-Bapaume line, about two and one-half miles northeast of Albert.

St. Laurent-Blangy is about two miles northeast of Arras. Arras is about fifteen miles north of Bapaume. The progress in this area of fighting, the report to-night, referring to these operations, was as follows:

In Belgium our troops have gained ground north of the road from Ypres to Menin, and have reached the French frontier at Valenciennes, a distance of three kilometers.

We have made appreciable progress at Ouliers-la-Bosselle, Mametz and Maricourt, in the region of Bapaume and Peronne.